

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8744

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, UR
SUBJECT: GREEK-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: ATHENS 8413

1. DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION, THE MFA DIRECTOR FOR
TURKISH AND CYPRUS AFFAIRS (NOMIKOS) GAVE US SOME ADDITIONAL
BACKGROUND ON THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SOVIET AND
GREEK OFFICIALS ON THE QUESTION OF THE EXTENSION OF
GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS AND ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE. BOTH
OF THESE EXCHANGES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED RECENTLY WITH SOME
PROMINENCE IN THE GREEK PRESS (REFTEL).

2. ACCORDING TO NOMIKOS, TEN TO FIFTEEN DAYS AGO THE
GREEK AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW HAD A DISCUSSION WITH A SOVIET
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE LOS
CONFERENCE. DURING THE COURSE OF THAT DISCUSSION THE
SOVIET OFFICIAL TOLD THE GREEK AMBASSADOR THAT IN THE
EVENT THE GOG EXTENDED ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS, AS HAD
BEEN RUMORED, TO 12 MILES AND SHOULD THIS RESULT IN
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INTERFERENCE WITH FREE NAVIGATION IN THE AEGEAN, THE

SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A GREEK ACTION AS "HOSTILE."
ACCORDING TO NOMIKOS, THE GREEK AMBASSADOR ARGUED IN REPLY
THAT AS A SEAFARING NATION GREECE HAS TRADITIONALLY
SUPPORTED FREEDOM OF THE SEAS AND THAT THE GOG HAS GIVEN
NO INDICATION THAT IT INTENDED TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL
WATERS UNILATERALLY.

3. NOMIKOS CONFIRMED, ESSENTIALLY, THE PRESS ACCOUNTS
(PARA 2 OF REFTEL) CONCERNING THE DEMARCH WHICH SOVIET
AMBASSADOR UDALTSOV HAD MADE TO MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS WITH RESPECT TO THE AEGEAN DISPUTE
ON AUGUST 13. NOMIKOS SAID THAT EARLIER THAT WEEK TZOUNIS
HAD CALLED IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, AS HE HAD SEVERAL OTHER
AMBASSADORS, TO BRIEF HIM ON THE STEPS WHICH
PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAD ANNOUNCED THE GOG WAS TAKING
IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISPUTE WITH TURKEY OVER THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE SISMİK. A FEW DAYS LATER, IN RESPONSE TO THIS
BRIEFING, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR CALLED ON TZOUNIS TO GIVE
HIM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE MATTER, I.E.
THE SOVIETS COUNSELED SELF-RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF BOTH
COUNTRIES, WERE CONCERNED THAT THERE BE NO INTERFERENCE WITH
NAVIGATION IN THE AEGEAN, AND FAVORED THE SETTLEMENT OF
DIFFERENCES THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION. IN RESPONSE,
NOMIKOS SAID, TZOUNIS EXPLAINED TO UDALTSOV THAT
GREECE HAS BEEN ALL ALONG READY TO SETTLE ITS DISPUTE WITH
TURKEY THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS BUT THAT TURKEY HAS
CONSISTENTLY BEEN UNWILLING TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL
NEGOTIATIONS.
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